

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Karla Rodriguez de Guardado , I am from Wallingford.

I am in favor of S.B. 284: AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE FROM EIGHT TO EIGHTEEN FOR AN INCOME ELIGIBLE PERSON TO OBTAIN HEALTH CARE REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS. Expanding access to HUSKY to age 18, regardless of immigration status, is an important step in ensuring that our immigrant community has access to the health care we need. But our work doesn't end with expanding access to age 18; we need to open access to HUSKY and health care to all immigrants of any age, including parents and adults.

My name is Karla. I am domestic worker and as a mother, I have 2 children who have unequal access to health care, since one of them is a citizen and the other is not. I ask myself why does this inequality exist with my two children?

I have taken my daughter to the hospital for physical exams, as she did not have insurance, the exams cost me a lot, I have not yet finished paying off that bill, when I tried to get insurance for my daughter, they denied me for being an immigrant.

You don't know how it hurts me as a mother to see that the state institutionally discriminates against one of my children, when I treat them equally.

I would really like to be in your shoes as legislators, because then I would have the historic opportunity to change the reality of hundreds of thousands of children and adolescents, so I pray to God to give you the wisdom to legislate this law that would help to close the gap between children with and without status.

I support S.B. 284 and ask the committee to support and pass this legislation. Going forward, I ask the committee to work to open access to all immigrants regardless of age.

Thank you for your time,

Karla Rodriguez de Guardado